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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)**

2254.0010001/RWE/JKM

Applicant/Patent Owner: LaCOURSE et al.

Application No./Patent No.: _____ Filed/Issue Date: _____

Entitled: **VACUUM MEMBRANE EXTRACTION SYSTEM**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a university
 (Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or2. an assignee of less than the entire right, title and interest.
 The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ % in the patent application patent identified above by virtue of either:A. An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.**OR**

B. [] A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To: _____
 The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
2. From: _____ To: _____
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3. From: _____ To: _____
 The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

[] Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

 Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., the original assignment document or a true copy of the original document) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, if the assignment is to be recorded in the records of the PTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

February 17, 2004
 Date
410-455-3481
 Telephone number

Stephen P. Auvi
 Typed or printed name
Stephen P. Auvi
 Signature

Director, Office of Technology
 Title Development

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**DO NOT FORWARD
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ASSIGNMENT

In consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) or equivalent and other good and valuable consideration paid to each of the undersigned inventors: William R. LaCOURSE and Patrick Devin WIGINGTON, the undersigned inventors hereby sell and assign to University of Maryland, Baltimore County, (the Assignee) his/her entire right, title and interest, including the right to sue for past infringement and to collect for all past, present and future damages, for the United States of America (as defined in 35 U.S.C. § 100) and throughout the world,

(a) in the invention(s) known as Vacuum Membrane Extraction System for which application(s) for patent in the United States of America has (have) been executed by the undersigned on 2/6/04 (also known as United States Application No. to be assigned, filed herewith), in any and all applications thereon, in any and all Letters Patent(s) therefor, and

RUE
Loy No. 32,893

(b) in any and all applications that claim the benefit of the patent application listed above in part (a), including non-provisional applications, continuing (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) applications, reissues, extensions, renewals and reexaminations of the patent application or Letters Patent therefor listed above in part (a), to the full extent of the term or terms for which Letters Patents issue, and

(c) in any and all inventions described in the patent application listed above in part (a), and in any and all forms of intellectual and industrial property protection derivable from such patent application, and that are derivable from any and all continuing applications, reissues, extensions, renewals and reexaminations of such patent application, including, without limitation, patents, applications, utility models, inventor's certificates, and designs together with the right to file applications therefor; and including the right to claim the same priority rights from any previously filed applications under the International Agreement for the Protection of Industrial Property, or any other international agreement, or the domestic laws of the country in which any such application is filed, as may be applicable;

all such rights, title and interest to be held and enjoyed by the above-named Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns to the same extent as all such rights, title and interest would have been held and enjoyed by the Assignor had this assignment and sale not been made.

The undersigned inventors agree to execute all papers necessary in connection with the application(s) and any non-provisional, continuing (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part), reissue, reexamination or corresponding application(s) thereof and also to execute separate assignments in connection with such application(s) as the Assignee may deem necessary or expedient.

The undersigned inventors agree to execute all papers necessary in connection with any interference or patent enforcement action (judicial or otherwise) related to the application(s) or any non-provisional, continuing (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part), reissue or reexamination application(s) thereof and to cooperate with the Assignee in every way possible in obtaining evidence and going forward with such interference or patent enforcement action.

The undersigned inventors hereby represent that he/she has full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that he/she has not executed, and will not execute, any agreement in conflict therewith.

The undersigned inventors hereby grant Robert Greene Sterne, Esq., Registration No. 28,912; Edward J. Kessler, Esq., Registration No. 25,688; Jorge A. Goldstein, Esq., Registration No. 29,021; David K.S. Cornwell, Esq., Registration No. 31,944; Robert W. Esmond, Esq., Registration No. 32,893; Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, Esq., Registration No. 32,831; Michele A. Cimbala, Esq., Registration No. 33,851; Michael B. Ray, Esq., Registration No. 33,997; Robert B. Sokohl, Esq., Registration No. 36,013; Eric K. Steffe, Esq., Registration No. 36,688; Michael Q. Lee, Esq., Registration No. 35,239; Steven R. Ludwig, Esq., Registration No. 36,203; John M. Covert, Esq., Registration No. 38,759; Linda E. Alcorn, Esq., Registration No. 39,588; Lawrence B. Bugaisky, Esq., Registration No. 35,086; Donald J. Featherstone, Esq., Registration No. 33,876; Robert C. Millonig, Esq., Registration No. 34,395; Michael V. Messinger, Esq., Registration No. 37,575; Judith U. Kim, Esq., Registration No. 40,579; Timothy J. Shea, Jr., Esq., Registration No. 41,306; Patrick E. Garrett, Esq., Registration No. 39,987; all of STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C., 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-3934, power to insert in this assignment any further identification that may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for recordation of this document.

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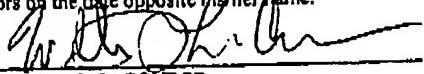
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, executed by the undersigned inventors on the date opposite his/her name.

Date: 02/06/04

Signature of Inventor: 
William R. LaCOURSE

Date: _____

Signature of Inventor: 
Patrick Devin WIGINGTON

226061.1

Page 2 of 2

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(a) in the invention(s) known as Vacuum Membrane Extraction System for which application(s) for patent in the United States of America has (have) been executed by the undersigned on (also known as United States Application No. to be assigned, filed herewith), in any and all applications thereon, in any and all Letters Patent(s) therefor, and

*RWD Reg. No.
32,873*

(b) in any and all applications that claim the benefit of the patent application listed above in part (a), including non-provisional applications, continuing (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) applications, reissues, extensions, renewals and reexaminations of the patent application or Letters Patent therefor listed above in part (a), to the full extent of the term or terms for which Letters Patents issue, and

(c) in any and all inventions described in the patent application listed above in part (a), and in any and all forms of intellectual and industrial property protection derivable from such patent application, and that are derivable from any and all continuing applications, reissues, extensions, renewals and reexaminations of such patent application, including, without limitation, patents, applications, utility models, inventor's certificates, and designs together with the right to file applications therefor; and including the right to claim the same priority rights from any previously filed applications under the International Agreement for the Protection of Industrial Property, or any other international agreement, or the domestic laws of the country in which any such application is filed, as may be applicable;

all such rights, title and interest to be held and enjoyed by the above-named Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns to the same extent as all such rights, title and interest would have been held and enjoyed by the Assignor had this assignment and sale not been made.

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*Pat Dev
Wynn 2-6-04*

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, executed by the undersigned inventors on the date opposite his/her name.

Date: _____

Signature of Inventor: _____

William R. LaCOURSE

Date: 2/6/04

Signature of Inventor: _____

Patrick Devin WIGINGTON

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